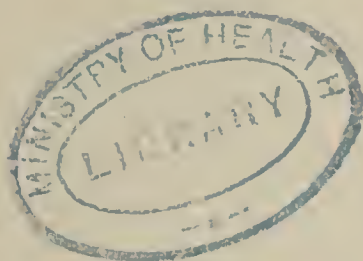


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THE
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND THE
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR
TO THE
ST. JUST URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
FOR THE YEAR
1948.

Council Office,
St. Just.

Council Office,
ST. JUST.

To the Chairman and Members of the St. Just
Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Few years could have been so fruitful of discussion - promoting events from the Public Health point of view than 1948.

The events of July 5, which form the Social Service tripod, would alone give material enough to fill many books; but of more local interest was the visit of the Boundary Commission. Some progress was made with certain sewerage schemes but none, alas, in water provision. Though some new houses received their rejoicing tenants, housing development as a whole was very slow, but this was not the fault of the Council.

These local problems require to be tackled in the most resolute and energetic manner, and it is a pleasure to record the assistance I have received from the Members of the Council and the Clerk and his Staff. I am also very grateful for the most conscientious help given to me by the Sanitary Inspector/Surveyor, Mr. Lawry.

I am, Mr. Chairman,

Your obedient Servant,

W.K. DUNSCOMBE,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICAL INFORMATION
1948.

1.	Population	...	...	4067.
2.	Area	...	...	7761 Acres.
3.	Rateable Value	...	...	£10,049.
4.	Product of 1d Rate	...	...	£40.
5.	No. of Inhabited Houses	...	...	1438.
6.	Live Births	...	35 Male. 33 Female. 68 Total. Rate per 1,000 population 16.8	
7.	Still Births	...	...	NIL.
8.	Infant Deaths	...	1 Male. Rate per 1,000 live births 14.7	
9.	Total Deaths	...	35 Male. 28 Female. 63 Total. Rate per 1,000 population 15.5	

TABLE OF CAUSES OF DEATH.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	2.	1.	3.
Cancer	8.	3.	11.
Diabetes	-	1.	1.
Intracranial Vascular Diseases	4.	2.	6.
Heart Diseases	9.	12.	21.
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	3.	2.	5.
Bronchitis	1.	-	1.
Pneumonia	1.	1.	2.
Other Respiratory Diseases	4.	-	4.
Other Digestive Diseases	-	1.	1.
Nephritis	-	2.	2.
Other Maternal Causes	-	1.	1.
Congenital Malformation. Birth Injuries including Infant Diseases	1.	-	1.
Suicide	1.	-	1.
Other Violent Causes	1.	-	1.
All Other Causes	-	2.	2.
Total	35.	28.	63.

1. GENERAL SANITARY CONDITION OF AREA.

Water Supply. As mentioned in the introduction no improvements to the water supply were carried out during the year and, while the supply from the Reservoir was reasonably adequate, the hamlets on the north side are dependent on sources which are not. Last year I criticised the supply at Trewellard as antique, and no-one could consider any supply satisfactory when it necessitates one man being sent down between 50 and 60 ft below ground to pump manually for several hours each day except Sundays. Since, in the absence of any other water supply this disused mine shaft must be used, it is obvious that electrification is the answer. A considerable leak in one of the distribution mains from the Reservoir was finally located after most energetic work by the Surveyor/Sanitary Inspector. Reference has previously been made to the need for chlorinating the supply from the Reservoir and although the results have in general been satisfactory it is still raw water with all its attendant risks that is being consumed. I must, therefore, re-iterate my opinion that it is essential that the elementary precaution of chlorination should be provided at the earliest possible moment.

2. Sewerage. Following on complaints regarding two leaking cesspools in the Churchtown area into which the sewage from nearly 100 houses flows, a Consultant Engineer was called in to advise. He was also asked to try at the same time to ease the problem caused by the surcharging of the main sewer which has forced up manholes in the town on many occasions. The first solution propounded proved to be too expensive for the Council to face in view of its extremely low product of 1d rate, and the Consultant Engineer has subsequently been asked to try and propose a scheme for a sea outfall for the sewer from these 100 houses alone. It is understood that before the site is decided upon float tests will be required and these take time. It is unlikely, therefore, that the nuisance will be remedied for some time.

3. Refuse was still tipped at Balswidden but the tip unfortunately caught fire and had not been put out by the end of the year.

4. Housing. Ten houses were completed and occupied. This was a great event but there is still a large number of persons on the waiting list in spite of an active policy of requisitioning. Also many houses are very considerably below any reasonable standard and cannot be made fit at reasonable expense, so that there is ample room for new building. A point of importance in the replanning of the town is whether, having regard to the conditions particularly on the north side, it would not be better to re-site the houses there in one locality which then could be provided with water, and sewered at something like reasonable cost.

5. Boundary Commission. At the outset the Council recognised that their financial resources coupled with the very low product of ld rate would probably not justify their survival as a local government unit, and, therefore, in such circumstances, they supported the proposals to fuse all the authorities in the Land's End area into one. The Commissioner gave a most patient and courteous hearing to all the points the Council could put forward.

In these days, the need is for really strong and efficient local government units in order to carry out all the legislative activities which should be delegated to them but which are still not too remote from the ordinary citizen. The sudden demise, therefore, of the Commission which has only recently been decided on, before any recommendations regarding this area could be made, is nothing less than a calamity.

6. Infectious Disease. The year was fortunately fairly free from infectious disease in general. Helped by the extremely good work of the District Nurses, diphtheria immunisation was actively carried on. The figures are given in the Area Tables at the end of the report but it can be said to the great credit of the town that the percentage of children under five, and indeed under fifteen months, who have been immunised compares very well with almost any other area of comparable size in the country. At the Immunisation Clinics we have had the regular assistance of a lady volunteer to whom our thanks are due for the great help she has given us.
7. National Health Service. Notes on how the coming into operation of the Service affected this whole area are given in the Appendix but the town which has had so little in the past is gaining by the provision of a County Council Infant Welfare Centre. Proposals for instituting this were under consideration for several months but by the end of the year we could say that this Clinic would start in January, 1949, and the thanks of the town are due to the County Health Committee and the ladies in St. Just who worked and pressed so hard for it.
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REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1948.

WATER.

(a) St. Just Supply. Although there was no curtailment of supplies during the summer months, the depth of water in the reservoir by the middle of September was only 1 ft 6 ins, and the Council were obliged to call in the Fire Brigade to pump water into the reservoir so as not to put on any restrictions. This shortage was caused through bad leakages in the service mains which were extremely difficult to locate.

(b) Trewellard Supply. The manual pump had to be used continuously between the 20th May and the 25th October, and during that period the residents had water for only an hour or two each day, and there was no water available on Sundays throughout the period. During the remainder of the year the supply, which was by gravitation, was fairly satisfactory.

(c) Boscaswell Supply. There is a piped supply to this area, but owing to the bad state of the pipes, the supply is not satisfactory.

(d) General. All the other pumps and wells in the area have been kept in order.

SEWERAGE.

There have not been any extensions of note made during the year.

Respecting the sewerage from the North side of the town which empties into a cesspit, the matter is still in the hands of the Council's Consulting Engineers.

NUISANCES.

New Privies provided after Statutory Notice	...	6.
New Privies provided after Written Notice	...	1.
Dirty Privy cleaned after Written Notice	...	1.
Dirty Privy cleaned after Verbal Notice	...	1.
Choked W.C.s cleaned after Verbal Notice	...	3.
Choked W.C. cleaned after Written Notice	...	1.
W.C. pan to replace broken pan after		
Verbal Notice	...	1.
Privies repaired after Verbal or Written Notice		10.
Defective Gully Trap replaced after Verbal		
Notice	...	1.
Choked Drains cleaned after Verbal Notice	...	20.

HOUSING.

Repairs carried out after Statutory Notice ... 4.

GENERAL.

There are four Bakehouses in the Area, and all have been kept in a clean state.

No Licences were issued for Camping Sites.

The Schools in the Area were kept in a clean state.

Approximately 1 cwt of tinned and other food was condemned as unfit for human consumption.

APPENDIX A.
NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE.
Cornwall No. 1 Area.

The following is a brief report on the working of the National Health Service in this Area.

1. Cornwall No. 1 Area comprises:-

Population (Mid-Year 1948)

Penzance Borough	...	...	19,920
St. Ives Borough	...	...	8,605
St. Just	...	...	4,047
West Penwith	...	...	17,770
Total			<u>50,342</u>

Total Area - 83,000 Acres.

The Area Health Office is located at Penzance.

The administration is carried out by the Assistant County Medical Officer who is the Medical Officer of Health for the County Districts.

The position in this Area was complicated considerably by the fact that it was the only Area in the County where a whole-time Medical Officer of Health was functioning before the Act began. It was therefore impossible to combine the work done by the Medical Officer of Health for the County Districts and that done by him for the County Council into one office which is so desirable from the point of view of economic administration, but in any case it is certainly wrong that the Area Medical Officer should have three offices in one town which is the present position in Penzance.

2. Since by the end of December this service had only been running six months it is obviously too soon to pass any detailed comments. However, it could be said that on the whole the take over of the Maternity and Child Welfare Service from Penzance Borough was smooth and that the Service was gradually getting into its stride. It had also been arranged that Infant Welfare Clinics would be commenced in St. Just twice per month starting from January, 1949 and active steps were being taken to acquire a suitable site for a Clinic at Hayle, while careful consideration was being given to proposals for satisfactory clinic accommodation in St. Ives where the present arrangements are far from ideal. With its population of nearly 9,000 St. Ives deserves a really good Clinic.

In Penzance, although proposals for the alteration of the old Science School in Morrab Road to provide full Clinic facilities had been approved by all parties interested (Ministries of Health, and Education, County Council and the Borough Council), no work had been started on the building by the end of the year.

3. Certain major points with regard to administration should be re-considered at a very early date. These are:-

- (a) The Area Committees have very little power indeed.
- (b) The Medical Officer of Health as the Assistant County Medical Officer should be the administering Medical Officer for all the County Council medical services in the Area. At present this is not so, especially as regards the School Medical Service.
- (c) Medical Officers of Health should also be co-opted members of any House Committee of the Hospital Management Committee formed in their Areas. This is most certainly not the case in this Area now, with the result that information about projects in the Hospital, which may easily have profound effects on public health provisions and amenities has to be obtained second or third hand. This should not be if there is to be proper co-ordination throughout the Service.

APPENDIX B.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Disease.	Penzance.	West Penwith.	St. Ives.	St. Just.
Diphtheria	4	4	-	-
Scarlet Fever	4	7	5	-
Measles	18	33	-	8
Whooping Cough	7	4	35	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	-	-	-	-
Acute Polio- myelitis	-	1	-	-
Pneumonia	-	1	-	-
Erysipelas	-	2	-	-
Typhoid	-	1	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	1	-

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.
1948.

Area	Number of Children who Completed a full Course of Immunisation in 1948.			Number of Chil- dren Receiving Refresher Doses
	<u>Under 5.</u>	<u>5 - 14.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	
PENZANCE	356	23	379	463
ST. IVES	43	4	47	93
WEST PENWITH	186	7	193	277
ST. JUST	70	1	71	109

T U B E R C U L O S I S .
(1) NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS IN AGE GROUPS, 1948. (DEATHS GIVEN IN BRACKETS).

	1 - 5	5 - 15	15 - 20	20 - 25	25 - 35	35 - 45	45 - 65	Over 65	Total.
Penzance.									
Pul. M.	-	1	-	3 (1)	3 (1)	3 (1)	5	1 (1)	16 (4)
Pul. F.	-	-	2	1 (1)	2	- (1)	1 (1)	1	7 (3)
Non Pul. M.	1	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	4
Non Pul. F.	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
West Penwith.									
Pul. M.	-	-	-	1	2	- (2)	1 (1)	-	4 (3)
Pul. F.	-	-	2 (2)	-	1	-	1	-	4 (2)
Non Pul. M.	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Non Pul. F.	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	3
St. Just.									
Pul. M.	-	1	-	1	1 (2)	1	1	- (1)	5 (3)
Pul. F.	-	-	-	-	1	-	- (1)	-	1 (1)
Non Pul. M.	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Non Pul. F.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
St. Ives.									
Pul. M.	-	-	-	2	-	2 (1)	2	-	6 (1)
Pul. F.	-	-	- (1)	3 (1)	3 (1)	-	1	-	7 (3)
Non Pul. M.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non Pul. F.	-	- (1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	- (1)
Total Notifications									62.
Total Deaths									21.

(2) Numbers on Register on the 31st December, 1948.					Non Pulmonary.	
		Pulmonary.		Total.		Total.
Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	
Penzance	84	52	136	16	16	32
West Penwith	66	62	128	26	25	51
St. Ives	33	35	68	7	10	17
St. Just	30	14	44		8	13

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR
1948 FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT OF ST. JUST IN THE COUNTY OF CORNWALL.

PART I OF THE ACT.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises.	Number on Register.	Inspection. Inspection.	Number of Written Notices.	Occupiers prosecuted.
(i) Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	18.	45.	Nil.	Nil.
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
(iii) Other Premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (Excluding out-workers' premises).	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

N I L.

PART VIII OF THE ACT.

OUTWORK.
Sections 110 and 111.

N I L.

Signature

W.K. Dunscombe
.....
Medical Officer of Health.

Date 27th. September, 1949.

